

Winter 2023 the Buzz



Highlights from
SCSDB Hornet's Nest

Brookelynn Raulerson releases her debut single "Truly Unique"

Brookelynn Raulerson, senior in the School for the Blind, has written and released her debut single "Truly Unique" on all streaming platforms.

Originally from Swansea and blind since birth, Brookelynn has been singing since she was three years old and began attending SCSDB in the fifth grade.

"Music is the best way that I can express myself," said Brookelynn. "I wrote this song to help sighted people understand that blind people are not disabled. Just

continued on page 4



Brookelynn Raulerson sings into a hand-held microphone on the outdoor stage of the Dr. Bobby Gene and Mrs. Barbara Harter Rippey Pavilion at the School for the Blind. Students and staff are the listening audience. Brookelynn is holding her white cane under her arm.

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Distributed to the parents of students currently enrolled at SCSDB, parents of students receiving outreach services, the SCSDB Board of Commissioners, and the SCSDB Foundation Board of Trustees.

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Special thanks to
Crystal Imig and each school
for photographs.



School for the Deaf teachers dressed up – or rather, dressed down – for pajama day during Spirit Week! Pictured left to right: Jillian Bechtel, Mary Nance Joseph, Heather Moffett, Jamada Howe, Rachel Hammett, and Elisabeth Lough.



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South Carolina School
for the Deaf and the Blind

President's Message

Dear Friends,

The 2022-2023 school year has allowed us a return to near "normal" conditions with off-campus field trips, work-based learning, athletics, and visits to our campus from community members and partners near and far! It has been wonderful to see increased student engagement in educational and recreational activities.

If it's been a while since you've been to campus, we would love the opportunity to show you the amazing work that happens here. We have several upcoming opportunities that are detailed in the Buzz or on our website, including theatre and chorus performances, multiple athletic events, prom, and so much more.

This summer, we will also be hosting our outreach camp for non-SCSDB students to experience campus life with other students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and families to learn about what SCSDB has to offer, so please spread the word about Camp Adventureland - Exploring our world high and low! Monday, June 19 - Saturday, June 24.

We have been busy with our campus facilities as well. In addition to robust learning opportunities, we are committed to ensuring our students have appropriate social and recreational facilities. This is particularly important for our residential students who spend most of their time here on campus. The renovation of the indoor pool has taken a bit longer to complete than initially anticipated due to difficulty obtaining parts, but upon final approval from DHEC, we will be open for business!

Additionally, due to a very generous community donor, our two-lane bowling alley is being completely renovated with all new equipment. An Artist-in-Residence will then work with our students to design and paint the wall murals for that space. The track and field area is currently being redesigned to correct drainage and accessibility issues, with construction set to begin in May/June. These facility improvements are vital to the overall wellness of our students.

Thank you for your support of SCSDB as we continue to engage, empower, and equip our students for success!

Best wishes!



Jolene L. Madison
President, SCSDB



Students Ron'Ziya Boyd and Lucas Shetley from the School for the Deaf pet a bearded dragon.

Brookelynn Raulerson releases her debut single “Truly Unique” (cont’d) • • • • •

because we don’t do it the same way, doesn’t mean we can’t do it.”

Vincent Browning, owner of Sight Beyond Sight Entertainment LLC in Inman and alumnus of SCSDB, produced Brookelynn’s single. Since graduating in 1997, Vincent has worked with numerous visually-impaired recording artists.

“When I met Brookelynn and she told me she had written a song, I knew we had to record it,” said Vincent. “We rearranged our schedules and were able to record the song this past summer.”



Close-up of Brookelynn Raulerson at the debut performance of her song.

Brookelynn’s voice has been heard in over 50 performances representing SCSDB. She has performed all over the state, from Charleston to Rock Hill, and many times at the state house in Columbia. She has been involved in SCSDB productions and has had visual art installed across the state.



Brookelynn holds a paper certificate from Columbia College with “ACCEPTED - Dec. 2022” written in red.

too. Brookelynn has been accepted to Columbia College and plans to pursue a bachelor of arts degree in music.

“Blindness is not what defines me,” said Brookelynn. “My courage to pursue my dreams and use my talents, that’s what defines me.”

The cover of “Truly Unique” shows Brookelynn in a red floral dress and straw-colored hat holding her white cane. She stands in front of a small road flanked by two fields of yellow grass. The road recedes toward the horizon and the blue cloudy sky.

“We are so proud of her musical accomplishments,” said Josh Padgett, SCSDB director of fine arts. “Being an Arts in Basic Curriculum school, students at SCSDB are given opportunities for a comprehensive, accessible arts education where they can grow their love for the arts.”

Brookelynn is happiest when she’s singing and in the recording studio. She’s currently working on new music with the hope that her songs will inspire others to pursue their dreams



Get to know our president, Jolene Madison!

She's agency president at SCSDB. Her office is located in Walker Hall. She has a lot of colorful blazers. Yes, yes, and yes, but there's so much more to know about Jolene Madison!

Selected students from all three schools came up with their own questions for Jolene and interviewed her to get to know her better.

Cheyenne Harvell, senior at the School for the Deaf: What motivated you to come to SCSDB?

Jolene: I have worked in education for my entire adult career and have always worked in special education. Before coming to SCSDB, I taught multiple grades at the elementary level in both Greenville County and Lexington-Richland 5.

In my previous school districts, I worked as a teacher, a school administrator, and a district administrator. I also had the opportunity to work with the deaf/hard of hearing and visually impaired programs. When I learned of the opportunity at SCSDB, I thought I could bring some of those skills here and help move SCSDB forward.



Cheyenne and Jolene pose for a photograph.



Charnaye and Jolene sit in the president's office and chat.

Charnaye Brown, senior at Cedar Springs Academy: How did you become president of SCSDB?

Jolene: Nine years ago, I had the opportunity to come work at SCSDB, and I took on numerous roles working with both staff and students. When Dr. McCraw retired, I applied and was then selected as the new president of our agency, and I continue to work with students and staff daily.



Akeylah Howard, 10th grader at the School for the Blind: What do you love most about SCSDB?

Jolene: I love interacting with students and staff. This is a special place where friendships grow between peers. I enjoy attending school events when students are able to be with friends, like fine arts performances and athletic events. I love Spirit Week activities and Homecoming when students and staff can come together.

Lizzie Cottingham, senior at Cedar Springs Academy: What are some of your hobbies?

Jolene: I love to read, especially fictional stories. I enjoy spending time with my family. I have two boys who aren't quite so young anymore. I have a 23-year-old and a 17-year-old. We enjoy traveling, boating, and spending time on the lake together.



Akeylah and Jolene stand together for a picture.



Lizzie and Jolene sit down for an interview.



Jolene answers Cheyanne's questions.

Cheyenne Harvell, senior at the School for the Deaf: What is your goal for SCSDB?

Jolene: I have many goals. I think, for me, it comes down to three vision words.

Engagement. I want to make sure students are truly engaged in learning and that they have a well-rounded educational experience.

Empowerment. I want to make sure that students feel ready to tackle the world when they graduate, whether that be going to college or into the workforce, and that they feel prepared to continue to grow, to do more, and to be better.

Equipped. I want to know that all students are equipped with the skills needed for a successful future after SCSDB.



Charnaye Brown, CSA



Akeylah Howard, School for the Blind



Lizzie Cottingham, CSA

Residential Life



A spooky good time!

Residential life services staff brought seven busloads of students to trick-or-treat at the president's residence, the Dobson House. Costumes, makeup, and decorations made for a frightfully fun evening! Oh, and the treats!

Clockwise: Residential students wearing Halloween masks aren't afraid of the large, inflatable ghosts surrounding them. CSA students Ke'Mareon Turner, Jonathan Perez-Gomez, Tristan Bradley, and Azael Cruz are excited for their treats. A large group of students exit the bus before trick-or-treating. School for the Blind high school students hide behind rows of inflatable ghosts and jack-o-lanterns.



AAC

Applied Academic Center



Students cut a green ribbon while standing in front of the new screen-printing equipment.



Da'Quan Whetstone demonstrates how the screen-printing equipment works while ribbon-cutting participants watch and cheer.

Pennell Printing formally opens

SCSDB hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the school's state-of-the-art screen-printing shop, Pennell Printing, in November. Pennell Printing gives students the opportunity to learn how a full-service, professional screen-printing business operates.

Da'Quan Whetstone, senior at the School for the Deaf, shared his experiences with taking the screen-printing class and how it's teaching him skills for his future.

"Once I graduate, I want to work with mechanics and engine repair," said Da'Quan. "I believe this class has given me the teamwork skills, the leadership skills, and the hands-on opportunity to help with that."



Buzz Café makes break time easy

The Buzz Café, run by students, offers a wonderful selection of café beverages. Hot beverages are made to order; seasonal refreshments are baked and packaged; and both are sold by students in food services classes. Dates and hours of operation are advertised to staff.

School for the Deaf students Rusten Heffington and Aaron Sease and teacher Angela Collier brew coffee and prepare orders.



Left to right: CSA students D.J. Peake, Jonathan Perez-Gomez, Ca'mayra Boulware, and Lizzie Cottingham take a tour of the helicopter.



Nykyta Landin tries on a fireman's jacket, while the firefighter gives a thumbs up.

Spartanburg safety workers land at SCSDB

Students had a blast at Community Safety Workers Day! The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office (K-9 Unit, Special Services Division, SWAT team, and bomb squad), South Spartanburg Fire District, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and Spartanburg EMS performed demonstrations and allowed students to get an even closer look at the tools used every day on the job.



Marquel Latimore holds a tray of giant pansies.



Alasia Pifher shows off the beautiful pansies that are for sale.

Fall color, vegetables sell out quickly

Students managed the Annual Fall Plant Sale that included majestic giant pansies, mums, broccoli, collard greens, and mustard greens.

CSA

Cedar Springs Academy



In Santa's Bakery, teacher Susan Mitchell holds a microphone up for students Jennifer Jaime-Cruz and Mya Cornelius.



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Excited anticipation is the emotion shown on the faces of these CSA students, as they prepare for holiday celebrations.

Left to right: Students on top step: Mi'Kai Robinson and Azael Cruz. On the lower step, student Jair Hedgepath, assistant teacher Stacy Zabel, student Amberlyn Feno, and assistant teacher Melissa Mason. In wheelchairs on the floor level, students Selena Gregg and Brandon Forrest.



Jump up for Coding

Students in Susan Mitchell's class use the APH Code Jumper to learn about computer programming, recalling details, sequencing, and creating a digital sound array to accompany a story about traveling from Earth to the planet "Jumpiter."

Left to right: D.J. Peake, Ke'Mareon Turner, Melanie Gomez, and Ja'Aleeyah Riley.

Middle School students zone in on their emotions

"The CSA Middle School Visually Impaired class has been working hard on independence this year," said teacher Hannah Watchorn Babb. "My students have enjoyed trying new things on their own."

For example, students love writing their own emails to one another. They also have been engaged in emotional learning. They have learned different tools and strategies to regulate their emotions. "What zone are you in?" is the question classmates and teachers frequently ask each other.

Learning comes by multiple applications

Learning applications as different as the North and the South have been employed by students in Bridget Sitarski's American History class, as they studied the Civil War.

Incorporating hands-on learning improved their understanding of the subject. The students used technology to complete research papers. They also found self-expression in artwork.



Science can be a mystery!

Working as a team helped these students in Beth Goodenough's class at CSA get the job done. They found science to be fun, as they put the scientific process together. It turned out their hypothesis was wrong, but that's okay.

Left to right: Students Hailey Gundling, Jonathan Perez-Gomez, and Sierra Stefani glue their work to a foam board.



Academic skills are the secret ingredient in tasty dishes

On Thursday mornings, you can find Tessa Whitson's class in the training kitchen at CSA working as a team to make foods they like to eat.

During their time in the training kitchen the students have used many different recipes. Some of their favorite dishes have been pumpkin pie and vegetable soup. The class has grown in their ability to work as a team.

They have learned about following a recipe and identifying a variety of ingredients. They have also been able to apply many of the math and science skills they learn in the classroom to a real-world experience.

Kameran Gladden, Jonas Ramirez, and Trinity Wilkins share the task of preparing vegetables for their next culinary masterpiece.



Getting the garden ready

This soil will be transformed into an expanded garden to plant more vegetables and provide accessibility for all students.

Charnaye Brown and Brandy Mezquite-Reyes work on transporting soil to the raised beds.



Cup stacks stand tall

A variety of fun cup stacking activities engaged students at CSA in November, adding to a new world record for the event, World Sport Stacking Association Stack Up!

Physical education teachers and recreation coordinators guided the students and encouraged creativity in stacking. This year's new WSSA record is 737,863 people sport stacking at multiple locations!

Students and staff pose with some of their towers of stacked cups. Left to right: Standing in the back is Recreation Coordinator Antiwan Tate. Students seated in the front are D.J. Peake, Ja'Alceyah Riley, Mya Cornelius, and Jacob Jackson.

SCSB

School for the Blind



Principal Feiling plays with students Hayden Peterson and Leah Palma-Escobar.

Welcome Principal Valerie Feiling!

In the summer, the School for the Blind welcomed Valerie Feiling as its new principal. Valerie earned a Bachelor of Arts in English, with a concentration in education for secondary schools, from Wofford College.

She began her career in education by teaching English IV at her alma mater, Byrnes High School. While teaching, Valerie earned a master's in educational leadership. She became an assistant principal and served at Byrnes for 7 ½ years.

"I chose 'Soaring to New Heights' as our school theme for the year, because we will reach new levels of success in academic, social, and personal goals," said Valerie.

To kick off the theme, a passport "selfie" booth was available at registration. She bragged, "The students and staff are absolutely the best, and I am so encouraged by their excitement and gifts and talents. Go Hornets!"



Celebrating Spirit Week

At this year's Homecoming pep rally, the School for the Blind won the spirit stick for the most school spirit!

Students and teachers from the School for the Blind hold a banner that reads "Hornet's" in both green letters and yellow Braille dots.





Ellie Horton navigates the obstacle course with a white cane, blind-folded.



Left to right: Kendra Aguilar, Kailen Knox, Kenzie Childress, and Aaliyah Zimmerman hold up their white cane craft, made with beads and pipe cleaners.

Recognizing usefulness of white canes

The National Federation of the Blind celebrates White Cane Awareness Day every year on October 15. For people who are blind, the white cane is an essential tool that allows them to move freely and safely from place to place—whether it's at work, at school, or around their communities. Teachers at the School for the Blind set-up White Cane Day stations, that included an obstacle course, white cane history, and white cane crafts.



Thankful for family

SCSDB families joined our students on campus for the annual Thanksgiving lunch, made possible by our Sodexo food services staff.

Left: Johnny Owens sits with his mother in the cafeteria. Right: Aaliyah Zimmerman and her parents enjoy lunch together.



Learning and honoring

Teacher Konstantinos Kakouras led students in the POW/MIA Missing Man Table ceremony on Veterans Day.

The Missing Man Table is set with a white tablecloth, a folded flag, a single candle, an inverted glass, and a single red rose in a vase.

SCSD

School for the Deaf



Principal Keith Van Fossen, second from the left, speaks with teachers at SCSD.

Welcome Principal Keith Van Fossen!

The School for the Deaf welcomes a new principal, Keith Van Fossen. He comes to SCSD from the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. He served 11 years at VSDB, one as a teacher of high school mathematics and 10 as a school administrator.



Students from the School for the Deaf gather around Santa with excitement.

A jolly visitor

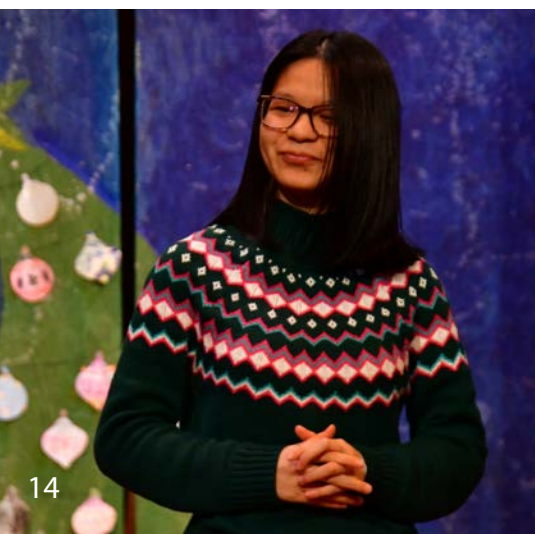
A signing Santa Claus visited elementary and middle school students at the School for the Deaf.



Middle schooler Jurnee Anderson eats lunch with her mother.

Home for the holidays

Families all enjoyed a delicious holiday lunch with their students.



Holiday fun with ASL

Students from the School for the Deaf presented American Sign Language (ASL) Holiday Stories. These stories celebrated the holiday season and Deaf culture.

Left to right: High school student Victoria Claire Raleigh and middle school student Logan Hollar share their ASL stories.



Students in Rachel Hammett and Jillian Bechtel's classes welcome Sergeant Steven Hodulick on Veterans Day.



Makayla Billings' design wins the "Caught Doing Good" assignment at the Applied Academic Center.

Ninja Hornets design robots

The middle school robotics team hopes to compete against other schools for the deaf in the future, building and programming a robot to complete a series of tasks and obstacles in a defined space.

Left to right: Middle school students Toby Allen, Carter Bryant, and Malakhi Monroe show some of their designs as proud members of the robotics team.



Critter Keepers

Seeing and holding a variety of amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and arachnids is part of a visit from the Critter Keepers to the School for the Deaf.

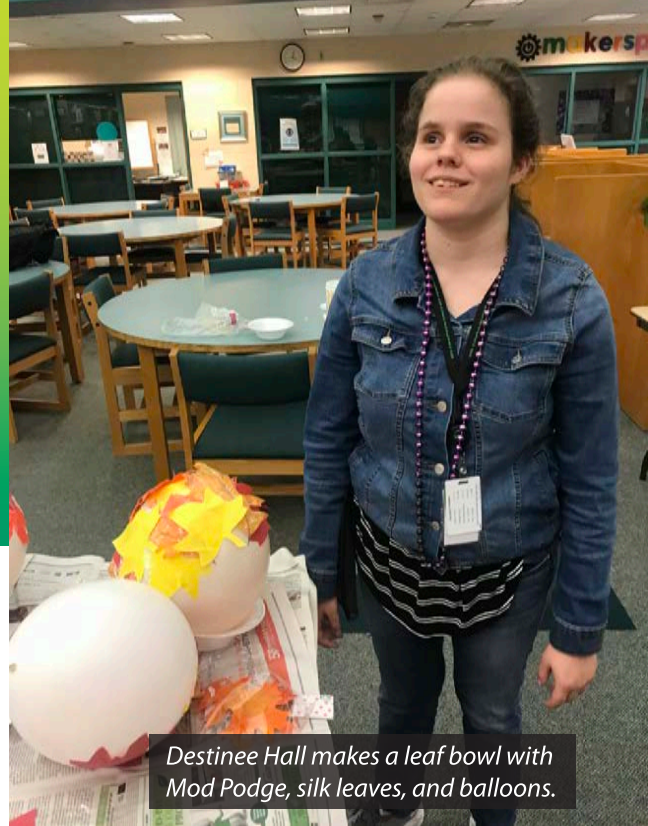
Left: John from Critter Keepers lets students interact with a red-tailed boa constrictor. Right: Principal Keith Van Fossen shows students his new friend, the boa.

Library

Cleveland Learning Resource Center

Discovering Fall fun in the library

Special events on October afternoons were hosted in the Cleveland Learning Resource Center (CLRC). Students participated in a game day, ate popcorn, and made a fall craft project. Galena Gaw, director of library services, said, "Making the leaf bowls was a messy and fun activity!"



Destinee Hall makes a leaf bowl with Mod Podge, silk leaves, and balloons.



Gavin Presley, School for the Blind



Kristen Barwick, School for the Deaf

Halloween Book Tasting

There were no tricks, only treats, in the library as students had a great time at the fall/Halloween Book Tasting and card-making session. They sampled some great books and enjoyed creating their own greeting cards.



After school activities

November after school activities hosted by the library included a game night and crafts. The high school girls also made book keychains.

Left: Ca'mayra Boulware and Iris Hare play Dominoes, Uno, and other games while eating popcorn. Right: Lonna Pelton makes a "Harry Potter" keychain.



Learning literacy

Students from Susan Legner's Cedar Springs Academy class enjoyed the literacy stations at the Accelerated Reader (AR) Kick-Off party. Students rotated among different literacy stations and ate refreshments after the activities.

Left: Jennifer Jaime-Cruz writes words in shaving cream as a tactile writing activity. Right: Melanie Gomez spells using the word bag at a literacy station.



Read for the Record

Students were over the moon for Jumpstart's "Read for the Record," the world's largest shared reading experience. The featured book was "Nigel and the Moon" written by South Carolina author Antwan Eady. The SCSD Foundation provided print and braille copies of the book for our elementary students.

Students from the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind attended a read-aloud of the book on October 27. They discussed their future career goals and learned from the character, Nigel, that the "sky is the limit!" Moon pies were the refreshments.



International Festival

The International Festival on Nov. 11 gave students the opportunity to create some amazing displays, "man" their country's booth, and eagerly share information. The following classes placed in the competition:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1st Place | Kenya | SCSD Elementary, Rachel Hammett |
| 2nd Place | China | SCSD High School, Heather Moffett |
| 3rd Place | Jamaica | SCSB High School, Christine Sewell |
| Honorable Mention | Nigeria | SCSD High School, Heather Moffett |
| Honorable Mention | England | SCSD High School, Heather Moffett |
| Honorable Mention | Portugal | SCSB High School, Mary Lister |

Christian Washington, Quadaris McKinney, and Joshua Perkins stand in front of their booth for China and hold up their award for 2nd place.



Do you know the Gingerbread Man?

Students at each school put their creativity to the test by building gingerbread houses in December!

Left: Emily Hernandez decorates her gingerbread house in white icing. Right: Taelyn Shands finds her work tasty.

Fine Arts

Audio description enhances experience of ballet performance

This year, SCSDB provided students attending Ballet Spartanburg's performance of "The Nutcracker" with audio description technology so that they could fully experience the visual elements of the ballet.



Cameron Stitt and Nathaniel Hiatt are both wearing green jackets and giving a thumbs up while holding the audio description headsets.

students from having a complete understanding of the program."

Earning degrees in both music education and composition, Carrie has been the music teacher at the School for the Blind for six years. In class, students study voice, playing instruments, music theory through aural skills, music history, composition, media arts, and audio engineering.

Before "The Nutcracker" performance, Carrie attended a dress rehearsal in order to write the audio description script for her students. From the sound booth, she described all the visual



Audio description (AD) is defined by the American Council of the Blind as a narration service that attempts to provide commentary on visual content which guides the listener through the presentation with concise, objective descriptions of new scenes, settings, costumes, body language, and visual gestures, information that is crucial to understanding what is fully taking place on stage.

"For years we have taken students to the Nutcracker and have prepared them beforehand by explaining the story and listening to the music," said Dr. Carrie Page, music teacher at the School for the Blind. "Every live performance is slightly different and creative choices are made, and not having audio description in the past has prevented



Over 100 students from the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind attend Ballet Spartanburg's "The Nutcracker." Students and teachers talk before showtime.

cues that were happening on stage through a portable transmitter and microphone, and the students heard her narrations through handheld radio receivers and ear pieces.

"Patrons of the arts who are low vision or visually impaired deserve to have a fully realized live performance experience just as much as anyone else," said Carrie. "We are excited to offer even more audio description experiences for our students in the future."

Leah Palma-Escobar and Kendra Aguilar are excited to have audio description headsets. They are both wearing pink puffy jackets.



Presenters introduce "The Nutcracker" before the performance. The red curtain in Twitchell Auditorium at Converse University is lowered and has the words "Ballet Spartanburg" projected onto it.

ASL Theatre

SCSDB was awarded an ABC Learning Loss grant from the SC Arts Commission to focus on theatre for the rest of the school year.

As a part of SCSDB's work with the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Institute, ASL Theatre teacher Liam MacDougall works with students on theatre skills.



Performing across the state

The SCSDB Choir traveled to Charleston to perform for the National Women's Legislative Conference in November.

Choir members pose for a photo with Senator Perry Gustafson. Left to right: Kyah Palmisano, Destinee Hall, Toby Allen, Brookelynn Raulerson, Emily Hernandez, Johnny Owens, Kaitland Davis, William Raleigh, Elliot Germany, Heilyin Sanchez.



Joe Strechay visits campus

Joe Strechay, a leader in accessibility and inclusion for productions worldwide, visited campus and shared about his work on television and film sets, including "Marvel's Daredevil," and "See" on Apple TV+.

He brings his personal experiences as a person who is blind to his work in film and television, and he specializes in orientation and mobility, accessibility, and transition from school to work or postsecondary education.

Top: Students hold props from the set of "See" starring Jason Momoa! Bottom: Joe Strechay speaks to students and teachers at the School for the Blind.



Athletics



Jasper Womick, Marquel Latimore, and Joshua Perkins are in position on the field during the Homecoming football game.

Introducing our Fall/Winter teams...

Volleyball

Left to right: Crystal Imig, Cheyanne Harvell, Dayana Orellana, Sierra DeVaughan, Lor'Reyel McClinton, Makayla Billings, Ryleigh Rabon, Charnaye Brown, Jessica Creech.

Not pictured: A'She-Rah Jeter.



Football

Front row, left to right: Coach Kris Guy, Michael Clifton, Traeveon Jones, Dacorion Horton, Tai Allen, Marquel Latimore, Coach Michael Sims.

Middle row: Alan Gaona-Lopez, Jasper Womick, Elliot Germany, Ellis Brown, Andres Benitez.

Top row: Coach Carl Duke, Tyreece McCoy, Joshua Perkins, Da'Quan Whetstone, Gavin Presley, Coach Don Creech. Not pictured: Christian Washington.



Goalball

Back row, left to right: Girls Head Coach Mary Lister, Boys Head Coach Tony Merriweather, Boys Assistant Coach Gerald Hughes, Tyreece McCoy, Landon Lipsey, Gavin Presley, Jacob Cooper, India Hare, Aleena Hamlin, Girls Assistant Coach Sara Brownlee.

Front row: Iris Hare, Noah Holley, Elaine Horton, Zion Johnson, Michael Clifton.



Cheer

Front row, left to right: Coach Cheryl Steen, Akeylah Howard, Sierra Stefani, Ja'Aleeyah Riley, Ca'Mayra Boulware, Assistant Coach Shannon Wright.

Back row: India Hare, Iris Hare, Hailey Gundling, Brandy Mezquite-Reyes, Kaylee Ellison.



Statewide Outreach Services

Statewide Blind and Visually Impaired Education equips students for independence

Specialized instruction empowers students to use technology in their daily lives.

One student received Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instruction and was able to use Google Earth and Google Maps to travel her desired route near the beach.

Another O&M instructor is helping a middle school student learn to travel the route from her home to her neighborhood community pool.

Access Technology training enabled a student to use his Mantis Q40 braille display to read directions to put together an Ellenco Rover kit during Christmas break. The kit contains Snap Circuits.

Specialized instruction also enhances students' social lives. One fifth-grade student is learning braille and enjoys reading and writing letters with his pen pal in Illinois.

Tactile art takes 1st place

The art piece below won 1st place in the student's division of the State Library's Talking Book Services "2022 Let's Celebrate Art" competition.

The student who created this quilt-like art is served by vision outreach. Her artwork can be found on the library's webpage that is currently promoting the 2023 competition: www.sctalkingbook.org/lets-celebrate-art



The student used multiple elements to add various textures to create this tactile gem. Everyday household items such as clothespins, sponges, paperclips, a microfiber cloth, eraser tops, rocks, seeds, and beads, are grouped together to create colorful shapes across the large, poster-size canvas.



Funders stand with CSA students (left to right) D.J. Peake, Ja'Aleeyah Riley, Mya Cornelius, and Melanie Gomez at the entrance to the Free Play Zone.

Freedom to Play Zone invites students outdoors

A former tennis court at CSA has been repaved and repurposed into a free play zone.

The Freedom to Play project at the SCSDB Foundation provides students with free play spaces in safe, outdoor areas while being supervised. According to the Play and Playground Encyclopedia, free play is defined as unstructured, voluntary, child-initiated activity that allows children to develop their imaginations while exploring and experiencing the world around them. Movement and activity refine students' emotional, intellectual, and behavioral development. Children with unstructured outdoor opportunities are likelier to try new movements while enhancing their physical and mental health.



School leadership representatives and funders cut the formal ribbon with CSA students Mya Cornelius and Azael Cruz.

"The students at Cedar Springs Academy thrive on opportunities to be outside in the sunshine, play on the playground, and do gardening," said Sarah Davis, CSA principal. "In the newly renovated Freedom to Play area, our students can roll around, race each other, and play with their friends safely. We look forward to the opportunities to build independence, self-esteem, confidence, and overcome challenges through play!"



Warm heart crochets caps

Judy Pitts delivered over 170 hand-crocheted hats for SCSDb students in October. Every student at SCSDb was able to receive a hat that was special for them.

"I've been crocheting for over 50 years," said Judy. "During the pandemic, I made lots of hats with all sorts of designs and characters kids love, and when I was thinking through places I could donate them to, the students at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind came to mind."

Above: Lillian Moon sits in her wheelchair, smiling and wearing a pink crochet hat with a pink scooter appliqué.



Left: Noah Holley, Tyreece McCoy, Landon Lipsey, and India Hare pose for a photo together wearing different colored crochet hats, each with a unique appliqué.



Continuing a years-long tradition started by the late Phyllis DeLapp, Andrew and Kitsy Babb provided dozens of coats for students at SCSDb. Donors and recipients of warm winter coats stand together outside Walker Hall.



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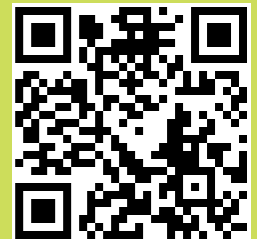
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We want to meet your family!

SCSDB campus programs are always accepting applications for new students. Our online application can be accessed at www.scsdb.org/apply. Please contact **Michaela Wilson** at 864-577-7565 or mwilson@scsdb.org for more information about the application and enrollment process.

If you are interested in applying, we invite you to come visit our campus. Campus tours can be arranged through **Loreta Dylgjeri**. Email her at LDylgjeri@scsdb.org



*Scan the QR code
to apply today!*

Come and see what SCSDB can do for you in your area of the state! The **SCSDB division of outreach services** provides a menu of options for parents, families, and the professionals who serve them that include and are not limited to, specialized early intervention services, school district educational services, sign language interpreting, and ASL classes! For more information on our statewide outreach services available in your area, please contact **Scott A. Falcone** at sfalcone@scsdb.org or 1-800-984-4357.